



SILAS SHAM

Lead Pastor, Bethany Northeast



Last week, my son and I were doing a puzzle, and when we were about halfway done, he picked up a piece that he really wanted to place. The only problem? He didn't know where it should go. In his determination to make everything "right," he ended up destroying what we'd already put together just so he could force his piece into position.

This moment is a great picture of what happens with King Herod in Matthew 2. He gets the right information—Bethlehem is where the Messiah will be born—but instead of responding with worship, he tries to control the situation. When he hears about a new king, he approaches Scripture from a posture of fear and uses its truth to protect his own power, rather than allowing it to guide him toward Jesus. In doing so, he misses the point entirely.

QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever focused so much on being right that you missed the bigger picture?
2. How can you let the light of Jesus guide your heart this Advent?
3. In what areas of your life do you need to shift from fear and control to worship and surrender?

It's easy to think that knowing the right facts is enough. Herod was 'right' in knowing where the Messiah would be, but his response was all wrong. Just like my son, who was so focused on placing his piece that he ended up wrecking the puzzle, Herod's focus on control led him to destroy the innocent. Meanwhile, the Magi, with much less information, followed the light they had, and it led them directly to Jesus.

As we reflect on this Advent season, let's ask ourselves how we are responding to the truth we know about Jesus. Are we so focused on our own control and desires that we miss the beauty of His presence? Or are we opening our hearts, letting go of fear, and allowing the light of Christ to lead us into deeper worship and surrender?

 BETHANY'S HOLIDAY PLAYLIST

Join us this Advent season for weekly devotional content!

